

## Arizona and Mexico vaccines and vaccination records

**Fact:** Vaccines administered in Mexico are valid vaccines in the United States (US). They are as effective and immunogenic as vaccines administered in the US. All US and Mexico vaccines have met World Health Organization (WHO) international standards to ensure vaccine quality and equivalence across vaccine manufacturers.

Source: [www.who.int/immunization\\_standards/vaccine\\_quality/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization_standards/vaccine_quality/en/)

**Fact:** Immunizations Received Outside the United States – “Written records may be considered valid if the vaccines, dates of administration, numbers of doses, intervals between doses, and age of the patient at the time of immunization are comparable with those of the current US schedule.” Source: American Academy of Pediatrics. Active Immunization. In: Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, McMillian JA, eds. Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 27<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatric; 2006: page 35-36.

**Fact:** Combination vaccines administered in Mexico differ slightly from combination vaccines administered in the US; but the individual antigens in the vaccines are acceptable in both countries.

Example: Pentavalente® is a vaccine used in Mexico protecting a child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza b (DTP/HepB/Hib); whereas, Pediarix ® is a vaccine used in the US protecting a child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and hepatitis B (DTaP/IPV/HepB). Pentavalente doses are accepted in the US and Pediarix is accepted in Mexico.

**Fact:** Vaccines received in Mexico are acceptable for child care or school attendance in the US and Arizona (AZ). As long as the vaccine doses administered in Mexico meet the minimum age and minimal interval requirements, the vaccines/doses are accepted.

Example of a vaccine not complying with the US/AZ minimum age requirement:

In the US/AZ, the minimum age for the first dose of polio vaccine is 6 weeks of age. Therefore, a dose of polio vaccine given at birth in Mexico does not count as a valid dose in the US/AZ.

**Fact:** Mexican immunization records are legal documents and are accepted as such in the US/AZ. Providers should transcribe Mexican Immunization Record vaccinations onto an Arizona Lifetime Immunization Record for child care and schools to easily identify vaccines required for attendance. The original Mexican record is the legal record of choice and should always be kept with the Arizona record for possible reference.

**Fact:** Vaccines administered in Mexico and US must meet the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for minimum age and intervals to be accepted for child care and school entrance.

**Fact:** In AZ, every effort is made to input all vaccine doses on Mexican Immunization Records to the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS), an electronic repository of all vaccines administered to children birth through 18 years of age in AZ. All vaccines are entered into ASIIS as individual antigens; combination vaccines are not entered as the combination but

as the individual vaccines contained in the combination. Example: Pentavalente administered in Mexico would be entered in ASIIS individually as DTP, Hep B, and Hib.